

City of Dunedin Hammock Advisory Committee (HAC)

Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2019

Dunedin Community Center Meeting Room, 1920 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin, Florida

HAC members present: Steve Fasnacht (Chair), Susan Humphreys, Patricia Jennings, Pam Hillestad, Donna Moore, Elizabeth Grant, and Chris McLaughlin (Alternate & Secretary).

Excused absences: James Polgar (Vice-Chair), Victor Johantges (Alternate).

Note: Per January 14, 2019's HAC minutes (approved as submitted below), Vice-Chair Polgar submitted his resignation from HAC. Mr. McLaughlin (Alternate) is willing to fill Mr. Polgar's position. Ms. Moore and Mr. Johantges are willing to switch positions, thus making Ms. Moore an Alternate and Mr. Johantges a Member. Per City Resolution 03-11, members shall be appointed pursuant to Resolution 99-13 so these actions will not be considered binding until confirmation of appointees are made by the Dunedin City Commission.

City Staff: Lanie Sheets (Parks & Recreation Superintendent)

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm by Mr. Fasnacht with 19 individuals in attendance.

Meeting Minutes: The January 14, 2019 Minutes were reviewed. **Motion #1** (Ms. Humphreys): Approve the Minutes as submitted. Ms. Hillestad seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Stormwater Advisory Committee Report (Ms. Grant): Ms. Grant reported that there is no report as the SAC meets quarterly. The next SAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 2 at 6:30pm at the Water Plant Conference Room, 1405 County Road 1. Ms. Grant had attempted to contact Whitney Marsh (Stormwater Program Coordinator) for an update to the Jones-Edmunds & Associates Stormwater Plan but had not received a response prior to this meeting.

Committee on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Report (Hans Hillestad): Mr. Hillestad did not attend the last meeting but mentioned that there was a new Sustainability Coordinator in place of Whitney Marsh.

Public Input: Susan Foote brought up the topic of herbicides being used in Hammock Park prior to the joint City/FoTH (*Friends of the Hammock Dunedin, Inc.*, a non-profit group) January 26th "Round Up" cleanup of exotics in the park. In the Gopher Trail area of the park, a 20-person group encountered a +/- 1-acre area marked sporadically with blue dye. City Arborist Craig Wilson had noted that blue dye is typically added to herbicide in order to positively identify where it has been applied. Ms. Foote requested that herbicide treatments be stopped in Hammock Park and in all city parks as the cleanup volunteers had the blue dye soak through their gloves, get on their clothes, etc. Ms. Sheets apologized for the encounter and mentioned this was the first time she had heard about the volunteers being exposed to the dye. She further gave the background on the exotic & invasive removal program and ensured that the dye is non-toxic and lasts much longer than the herbicide. She mentioned that the herbicide is harmless within minutes of application and will neutralize if it comes in contact with the ground. The city has hired an environmental engineer and contractor to tackle exotics through a multi-pronged approach of volunteers, natural methods (i.e. air potato beetles), and herbicide applications. The use of herbicides starts with the most harmless chemicals in the smallest effective amounts and this method typically brings about results. The city had cancelled the "Round Up" a week prior to the event due to lack of invasive plants, however the event had been advertised and publicized by FoTH and had to continue as scheduled. Normally areas would have been "vetted" to keep volunteers away from areas such as these, however the event turned out nearly quadruple the normal participants and Mr.

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Wilson may have had to think on his feet and unknowingly brought a group of volunteers to a treated area that had not been vetted for that event. Ms. Sheets reported that spraying has been completed in Hammock Park and the blue dye will go away with the next rain. Discussions were made about giving the public notice of spraying via newsletters, social media, or physical bulletin boards, however no motions were made by HAC.

Old Business:

- Fern Trail Update: Ms. Sheets gave an update on the Fern Trail boardwalk construction bid. The cost estimate for the project was \$51,259 and the 4 bids ranged between \$305,880-\$780,927 so the bids were rejected. Ms. Sheets has been looking into pre-fabricated modular systems to install portions of the boardwalk in the lowest areas with the option to add length in the future. The only vendors of this type of material she has found so far have been in the Midwest, so she is continuing her search closer to Florida. The material costs for structure and surfacing of the pre-fabricated idea would be around \$150,000 for the original bid length of the project. The city and FoTH have earmarked the cost estimate amount, and she speculated that the reason the bids came in so far beyond the cost estimate was due to additional engineering specs added to the bid plans that came from Brooker Creek's boardwalk plans. These additional specifications, liabilities, and warranties contributed heavily to a project initially envisioned to be a simple boardwalk above the trail surface.
- Officer Elections: Volunteers and nominations were accepted for the 2019-2020 officer positions. Ms. Humphreys volunteered to take over Vice-Chair duties and Mr. McLaughlin offered to continue acting as Secretary. Nominations are still being sought for the Chair position as current Chair Fasnacht may be term-limited off HAC in March due to revisions to Boards & Committees being contemplated by the city. (Note: According to the City Manager's October 19, 2018 Memo sent to board and committee members, proposed revisions may allow for the current chair to serve an additional term.)
- Annual Report: Chair Fasnacht will ask the city for an extension to submit the HAC's annual report as it is due on February 27 and he would like to review it with the members at the March meeting prior to submitting.

Motion #2 (Mr. Fasnacht): Motioned to adjourn. The member who seconded was not recorded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Next Meeting: **Monday, March 11, 2019** at 6:30pm Dunedin Community Center Meeting Room, 1920 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin, Florida.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Chris McLaughlin.